

The Watchman and Southron.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 21, 1902.

The *Sumter Watchman* was founded in 1850 and the *True Southron* in 1866. The *Watchman and Southron* now has the combined circulation and influence of both of the old papers, and is manifestly the best advertising medium in the state.

CHILD LABOR IN FACTORIES.

The State of Friday contained a lengthy editorial, with a number of extracts from a New York magazine, on the above subject. We have not space for the entire article, but copy the main portion of the editorial with some of the extracts to show our readers what is being said of us by others.

One of the British cotton manufacturers who have been visiting American cotton factories, and especially those in the south, said to a reporter of the State after going through Columbia's splendid mills that in time the southern people would come to realize the evil of the child labor system. "It is pernicious in the extreme," said he, "and will surely lead to a general physical and mental weakening of the people from whose ranks come the mill operatives. You will eventually have among you as a part of your population a race of people anemic, dull-witted and not over 5 feet, 6 inches in height."

As these manufacturers admitted that under any conditions the south could lead the world in cotton manufacturing, and as we all fully expect this, it can hardly be asserted that such outside criticism is prompted by a desire to handicap the southern textile industry in the race for international markets. It is well known, moreover, that despite child labor laws and the strength of trade unions in the British textile mills, and their distance from the sources of cotton supply, they have held their own in competition with the United States better than almost any other class of British manufactures. Our exports of cotton goods are quite insignificant in comparison with England's.

The words of the British manufacturer are quoted merely as preliminary to a far fuller and more severe criticism from the pen of a New Yorker. Two correspondents in distant States have written us asking that we should give attention to an article in the May number of the *Philistine*, by its editor, Elbert Hubbard, on "White Slavery in the South," such slavery being the working of infant children in the cotton mills. We comply with their suggestion for more than one reason: In the first place it will be well for us to see our "peculiar institution" as it would have been well for us to have seen another and an earlier such institution through the eyes of the outside world in the second place, because *The Philistine*, "a periodical of protest," holds a unique position in American journalism and has a circulation of over 100,000 copies among cultured people the country over, being therefore a not inconsiderable factor in making public opinion.

Mr. Hubbard's article is strenuous and sweeping—too sweeping in its expressions to be wholly just. He feels strongly regarding this evil of child labor and has fallen into error in generalizing too freely. We do not quote him because we approve of all he says but because it is expedient for South Carolinians to know what he says and, by putting themselves in the place of outsiders, conceive how they would feel if the like words were addressed to them regarding abuses here. We want them to reach the outside viewpoint; that is the first essential to reform at home.

We do not need to point out to the people of South Carolina the many exaggerations of speech and the various inaccuracies which this article contains. The evil of child labor is, as we all know, a considerable and a growing one, but, thank God! it is not as bad as the Roycrofters avers. Nor is it half as strongly entrenched as he and others in the north imagine. A bill prohibiting the employment of young children in the textile mills of South Carolina passed the senate and was defeated in the house of representatives last winter by only two votes—and this after but 18 months agitation for reform.

South Carolina is taken by Mr. Hubbard as a type of the southern child-working State. We do not know just how he got his information, but he visited Columbia on a lecture tour last winter and doubtless made his inquiries there. Some extracts follow:

Next to Massachusetts, South Carolina manufactures more cotton cloth than any other State in the union. The cotton mills of South Carolina are mostly owned and operated by New England capital. * * *

Heartless cupidity has joined hands with brutal ignorance, and the result is child labor of so terrible a type that African slavery was a paradise compared with it.

Many of the black slaves lived to a good old age, and they got hearty enjoyment from life.

The infant factory slaves of South Carolina can never develop into men

and women. There are no mortality statistics; the mill owners baffle all attempts of the outside public to get at the facts, but my opinion is that in many mills death sets the little prisoner free inside of four years. Beyond that he cannot hope to live, and this opinion is derived from careful observation and interviews with several skilled and experienced physicians who practice in the vicinity of the mills.

Boys and girls from the age of 6 years and upwards are employed. They generally work from 6 in the morning until 7 at night. For four months of the year they go to work before daylight and they work until after dark.

At noon I saw them squat on the floor and devour their food, which consisted mostly of corn bread and bacon. These weakened pigmies munched in silence, and then toppled over in sleep on the floor in all the abandon of babyhood. Very few wore shoes and stockings; dozens of little girls of, say, 7 years of age wore only one garment, a linsey-woolsey dress. When it came time to go to work the foreman marched through the groups, shaking the sleepers, shouting in their ears, lifting them to their feet and in a few instances kicking the delinquent into wakefulness.

The long afternoon had begun—from a quarter to 1 until 7 o'clock they worked without respite or rest.

These toddlers, I saw, for the most part did but one thing—they watched the flying spindles on a frame 20 feet long, and tied the broken threads. They could not sit at their tasks; back and forward they paced, watching with inanimate, dull look the flying spindles. The roar of the machinery drowned every other sound—back and forth paced the baby toilers in their bare feet, mended the broken threads. Two, three or four threads would break before they could patrol the 20 feet—the threads were always breaking!

The noise and the constant looking at the flying wheels reduce nervous sensation in a few months to the minimum. The child does not think, he ceases to suffer—memory is as dead as hope; no more does he long for the green fields, the running streams, the freedom of the woods, and the companionship of all the wild, free things that run, climb, fly, swim or burrow.

He does his work like an automaton! He is a part of the roaring machinery; memory is seared, physical vitality is at such low ebb that he ceases to suffer. Nature puts a short limit on torture by sending insensibility. If you suffer, thank God!—it is a sure sign you are alive.

South Carolina weaves cotton that Massachusetts may wear silk.

South Carolina cannot abolish child labor because the mill owners, who live in New England, oppose it. They have invested their millions in South Carolina, with the tacit understanding with the legislature and governor that there shall be no State inspection of mills, nor interference in any way with their management of employees. Each succeeding election the candidates for the legislature secretly make promises that they will not pass a law forbidding child labor.

They cannot hope for election other wise—the capitalists combine with the "crackers," and any man who favors the restriction of child labor is marked.

The cracker, the capitalist and the preacher live on child labor, and the person who lifts his voice in behalf of the children is denounced as a sickly sentimentalist, endeavoring to discourage the best interests of the State. The cracker does not reason quite thus far—with him it is a question of "rights, sah," and he is the head of his family and you must not meddle—his honor is at stake.

So at every election he jealously guards his rights—he has nothing else to do—he has lost everything but "honor." If women could vote in South Carolina they would wipe child labor out with a sweep, but alas! a woman in South Carolina does not even own her own boy. South Carolina is the only State in the union that has no divorce law. In South Carolina the gracious, gentle woman married to a rogue has him for life, and he has her. The State objects to their getting apart. The fetters forged in South Carolina never break (in South Carolina) and the key is lost.

I say these things with no prejudice against the people of South Carolina as a whole, for some of the bravest, gentlest, sanest, most loyal and most hospitable friends I have in the world live there. I make the mention merely as a matter of fact to show that the majority of the people in South Carolina have a long way to travel and are good raw stock for missionary work.

Unless all signs fail, Sumter will be represented in Charleston on Wagoner Day by a very large crowd, for nearly every other man you meet on the street says he is going. This is just as we would have it and we hope each and every one who desires to visit the Exposition on Wagoner Day may be able to do so. This city and county has patronized the Exposition with praiseworthy liberality, few counties in the State having sent so many representatives, but we hope to see so many Sumter people on the Exposition grounds on Thursday that none of them will feel lost in a crowd of strangers.

Senator Tillman takes strong grounds against child labor in cotton mills and pledges his influence against it. Senator Tillman is a shrewd reader of public sentiment, and while we do not question the sincerity of the views he has so clearly and forcibly expressed, we do regard his open letter on the subject as a very reliable index of the trend of popular sentiment in respect to the child labor question. This question is already one of the important issues of the State campaign and it bids fair to become the most important, completely overshadowing the many minor matters that have been brought forward as campaign issues. It is the only matter now before the people of the State that involves a vital principle and upon the settlement of which the future of the State in a measure depends. It is a rather complex question and cannot be decided off-hand, for it involves the perplexing question of the right of the State to supersede the parental right of control of minor children and other kindred questions equally as perplexing. It is a question, however, that can be settled by an appeal to the highest of all laws—the safety of the State, the public good. It behooves every legislative candidate to study this question with care and to bring to his study of it honesty of purpose and a desire to serve his country as a whole and not some particular interest or industry. If any man of average intelligence and ordinary honesty and sincerity will study the question calmly and dispassionately, with a full knowledge of the effects and results, present and ultimate, of the extension and continuance of child labor in mills, where the hours are long and the work confining, he will most assuredly arrive at the conclusion that the time has come for the State to exert its power and put an end to child labor. It is not a matter that can be compromised or put off by half measures; it should be stopped.

WEEKLY CROP BULLETIN.

Columbia, May 20.—The first part of the week ending Monday, May 19th, was warmer, the latter part cooler than usual, making the average temperature nearly normal at 73 degrees, with a maximum of 95 degrees at Gillisonville and Saluda on the 14th, and a minimum of 50 degrees at Heath Springs on the 16th. There was less than the usual amount of sunshine, as the last half of the week was generally cloudy.

Unevenly distributed showers occurred throughout the week, and over the entire State, with the heaviest rains in the lower Savannah valley and the Pee Dee sections, and with a maximum fall of 4.50 inches at Sheldon, Beaufort County. The showers were local in character, and many localities had only sprinkles, or no rain at all, while nearby localities had copious amounts. Hail was noted in Berkeley, Greenville, Richland, Union, Marlboro, Marion, Newberry, Chesterfield, Darlington, Kershaw, Chester and Williamsburg counties, but in only a few sections was the hail destructive to crops, although it necessitated considerable replanting in Union, Marlboro and Marion counties.

Farm work was retarded by too much rain in a few localities, and by the dry and hard condition of the ground in others, but generally it made fair progress. It was too wet in some of the eastern counties to kill grass, although grassy fields are the exception. Most of the field crops are clean and well cultivated. The need of rain is especially indicated for Chester, Edgefield and Saluda counties, and generally for all the central and western counties, except Oconee, and there are many dry localities in the eastern counties.

The stands of corn were badly broken during the week by worms, necessitating much replanting. A considerable portion of the bottom land crop remains to plant. Corn has a good color generally, and in most places is making rapid growth. It has received its second cultivation.

Cotton is doing well, with good stands on sandy lands, while on dry red lands the stands are not so good, and some is not up. A little remains to plant where the ground is too dry. Cut worms injured stands in a few places. Chopping has made fair progress and is nearly finished over eastern counties. Cultivation has kept pace with the growth of the plants, and only a few reports indicate grassy fields. Lice have made their appearance. The latter half of the week was too cool for cotton. Sea-island cotton is in good condition.

Tobacco stands were broken by cut worms, but the plants look strong and healthy, although undersized. Rice is coming up to good stands, and has received its first hoeing. Preparations are under way for June planting. Wheat lost condition, owing to dry weather, and is heading slowly. Oats continue to vary greatly, but generally stand in need of rain.

Harvesting is still confined to the coast regions. Peaches, cherries and apples are dropping, but in places enough peaches will remain to ripen an aver-

age crop. Melons are doing well. Vegetables are plentiful in the eastern counties, and truck shipments continue heavy. Sweet potato slips are being set out. Gardens are generally poor. Pastures scant.

Darlington—Stokes' Bridge: Heavy rain with hail on the 11th, that washed up much cotton and corn, some of which has been replanted; since then the weather has been too cool for cotton; corn doing well; tobacco small but stands are good; potato bugs numerous.—J. H. Pate.

Florence—Lynch: The week has been very favorable both for farm work and the growth and development of crops; the rains were light, but sufficient for the crops, but the weather is almost too cool; oats are heading and promise to yield a fair crop; insects still very destructive to corn, keeping stands broken.—E. J. Smith.

Kershaw—Camden: Heavy rain with hail on 14th, lands washed in places; some cotton being worked the second time, but much is not yet up; early corn looks well; sweet potatoes being set out; rains benefited gardens and pastures; oats generally poor.—J. B. Mickle.

Sumter—Hagood: Fine rains during the week; cotton chopped to stands, and first working will soon be over; corn is small for the season, but looks well and is growing rapidly; wheat and oats have been much improved by the rains, and average crops of both will be made; peaches are dropping.—A. K. Sanders.

Union—Santuc: Rain was general, but in some sections it was light, although beneficial everywhere; small grains received great benefit; wheat heading low, and is a poor crop; cotton, where up, looks healthy; corn growing nicely; destructive hail storm on the 11th in places, necessitating replanting corn and cotton.—E. W. Jeter.

Williamsburg—Kingstree: The weather conditions were favorable for the growth and development of all fields crops.—M. Cullen.

AN APPEAL FOR AID

From the Thornwell Orphanage, Clinton, S. C.

Good, kind Friend: Many faces of dear little children look up unto you today from this your home for the care of the fatherless.

You are their helper, their benefactor, their earthly all.

Without your help what would become of two hundred little brothers and sisters?

You can give but little, perhaps, but think of it: Five dollars will provide for a child, its board for a month, or its schooling for a year! Even a dime will give the child its three meals a day.

Just now we need you. The time has come when summer wants are multiplying, and even bread is scarce and hard to get.

A little just now from each of a thousand friends, would mean a great deal to these children.

It is a joy to know that you will not forget us. You never do.

God's blessing is your only reward. And is not that enough? God's blessing and the grateful prayers of all this multitude of orphans.

Send your barrels of flour simply to Thornwell Orphanage, Clinton, S. C.

Send your gifts of money to Wm. P. Jacobs, Clinton, S. C.

After the Exposition.

The Exposition's days are numbered. In two week's time the beautiful picture, which for the past six months has delighted the eye and the intelligence of thousands of visitors from all sections of the country will pass away. Those who have not yet seen the show should in its closing days make every effort to do so. There is much to be seen and the last days of the fair will be the best days. Every day from now until the Ivory City is brought to a final end should be a great day.

The work of destroying the Exposition will begin immediately after the close of the gates to the public, and within three or four weeks after the close all of the exhibitors and the concessionaries will have left the grounds, and the scene that will greet the eye will be one of desolation and perhaps ruin, for it is expected that the work of tearing down many of the buildings will begin immediately. Many of the State buildings have been sold to parties in the city and it is understood that they will be torn down as quickly as possible after the close of the show.—Charleston Post.

The State of South Carolina, COUNTY OF SUMTER.

By THOS. V. WALSH, Esq., Probate Judge. Whereas, Dr. Richard B. Furman hath made suit to me to grant him Letters of Administration of the estate of and effects of Dr. John H. Furman, deceased.

These are therefore to cite and admonish all and singular the kindred and creditors of the said Dr. John H. Furman, late of said County and State, deceased, that they be and appear before me in the Court of Probate, to be held at Sumter, S. C., on June 4th, 1902, next, after publication thereof, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon, to show cause, if any they have, why the said administration should not be granted.

Given under my hand this 20th day of May, A. D., 1902.

THOS. V. WALSH,
Judge of Probate.

A NEW BABY COUNTY.

An Election to be Held on June 28 to Decide Whether the County of Allendale Shall be Formed.

Columbia, May 19.—Governor McSweeney has ordered a special election to be held on June 28 to decide whether Allendale County shall be organized or not.

This new county project developed quite unexpectedly, although for some time Allendale has been spoken of as a desirable place for a county court house.

All of the papers in the case, with the affidavits and signatures, were presented to the Attorney General's office and Governor McSweeney received the following report:

The petition and accompanying papers of certain qualified electors of sections of Barnwell and Hampton counties, praying for an election to be ordered upon the question of forming a new county, referred to this office, has been considered.

The correctness of the fact set forth does not come within the province of this office, but evidence is presented that all the requirements of Article 8 of the Constitution, providing the prerequisites for an election for a new county, have been complied with.

U. X. Gunter, Jr.,
Assistant Attorney General.

Governor McSweeney saw no reason to delay the election, but thought that, as all the papers were regular and the people evidently want to hold the election and settle the matter, the sooner it was done the better, and he therefore issued an order for an election for a new county, to be held on June 28.

St. Petersburg, May 19.—An successful attempt was made yesterday evening to assassinate the Governor of Vilna, Lieut. Gen. Von Wabio. As he was leaving the circus at Vilna, about midnight, a man stepped up behind him and fired twice with a revolver, wounding the Governor in the left hand and right foot. The would-be assassin was pounced upon by the police and bystanders and was thrown to the ground, but he succeeded in firing a third shot harmlessly. When arrested the man gave the name of Hirschel Dert.

The South Carolina Pharmaceutical Association meets in Charleston May 21-22. When the convention is not in session the pharmacists will visit The Exposition grounds and spend their time in sightseeing.

J. RYTTEBERG & SONS,
SUMTER, S. C.

We are showing a new
line of

Ladies' Wrappers

Prices very low on them.

Just opened a new line of
Misses' Drop Stitch Hose,
guaranteed Fast Black,
sizes 5 to 9 1-2. Special
attractive price 12 1-2c.

Best value ever sold.

Just received a new lot of
Fancy Crackers, 15c per
pound, 2 pounds for 25c.

J. RYTTEBERG & SONS.

Advice to the Aged.

Age brings infirmities, such as sluggish bowels, weak kidneys and bladder and TORPID LIVER.

Tutt's Pills

have a specific effect on these organs, stimulating the bowels, causing them to perform their natural functions as in youth and

IMPARTING VIGOR
to the kidneys, bladder and LIVER.
They are adapted to old and young.

LOOK BEYOND

the first cost when buying paint. Once the needful oil is added to Longman & Martinez Paint, you not only have a low actual cost, but your house will stay well-painted longer than you wish. You'll get so tired of seeing the same colors year after year, that you'll buy some other shade of Longman & Martinez Paint just for variety's sake.

W. B. BURNS,
SOLE AGENT,
Sumter - S. C.

COUNTY SUMMER SCHOOL.

THE COUNTY Summer School for White Teachers will open Monday, June 2d and continue four weeks, until June 27th. All teachers of Sumter County are expected to attend the Summer School, as it is one of the requirements for the renewal of certificates. The sum of \$5 will be given to those teachers whose attendance may have proved satisfactory.

W. P. BASKIN,
Co. Supt. Education.